

Agreement between W.Yellow
Cross and Gov'T. PG 3

Revivexxx suspension
pg 3

December is AIDS
awareness month



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Saturday, December 18, 2010

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Dignitaries and AAA executives welcome inaugural Tiara Air Maracaibo flight



Tiara and AAA executives welcome the first Maracaibo flight



Alejandro Muyale receives a gift of appreciation from AAA Director Peter Steinmetz

hat is now Aruba's only home-based commercial airline, Tiara Air, inaugurated their new Aruba/Maracaibo/ Aruba route yesterday afternoon, December 17, with the arrival of 29 passengers from the Venezuelan city and a ribbon cutting in the V.I.P. room of the Reina Beatrix International Airport.

Venezuelan Consul General to Aruba, Dr. Jesus Javier Arias Fuenmayor, was on hand to welcome his compatriots to Aruba, and with the assistance of Tiara Air Managing Director, Alejandro Muyale, cut the ribbon on this first flight brought in by Captain Aldrin Wever.

Continued on page 5

MAMBO hosts a tremendous shopping event for the last Saturday before Xmas



MAMBO, Oranjestad's main street merchants association, invites the community to a final fantastic shopping event today, the shopping Saturday before Christmas. The main street in town will be closed to motorized traffic and become on giant shopping mall from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

According to a MAMBO spokesperson, a vast variety of merchandise at bargain prices will be offered with sidewalk sales and deep discounts throughout all stores. Whether seeking Christmas presents or that special holiday outfit, one is bound to find exactly what they are looking for.

There will be entertainment is by local Gaita and

music groups with regional and traditional holiday music, as well as DJ's who will set the mood for shopping.

Santa Claus has informed he plans to stop by greet all youngsters and young at heart. Those interested in having their picture taken with Santa & Snow Girl can do so next to Fuji Image and Djiespie's place, located on the far eastern end of the main street, from 3:00 p.m. until finish of the day.

MAMBO members would like to thank the entire community for the support they received throughout 2010, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Europe travel mayhem as arctic freeze strikes again

LONDON, England (AFP) - Snow swept Europe yesterday causing travel chaos in the continent's north, shutting Bulgaria's major Black Sea ports and leaving Italian cities blanketed in a rare covering.

Britain's national weather service, the Met Office, said if the cold snap continued it would set a new record for the month after two bitterly cold weeks in early December.

With just days before Christmas, the weather conditions and plummeting temperatures caused disruption for road, rail and air travellers with huge motorway tailbacks in Germany and warnings from traffic police in some parts not to venture out except in an emergency.

In Britain and Northern Ireland some airports were closed, roads were blocked and rail services including the Eurostar were delayed.



A snow covered train stands at a platform opposite an empty platform at Tonbridge Train Station in Tonbridge, England

Heavy snow forced the closure of Northern Ireland's Belfast International Airport, while runways were also closed at Exeter in southwest England and briefly at London City airport, which serves the capital.

Delays were reported on trains nationwide and Eurostar trains between London and Paris and Thalys trains between London and Brussels were subject to speed restrictions causing delays of up to 30 minutes.

Christmas deliveries have already been hit hard, with a number of Internet retailers stopping deliveries in Scotland.

Temperatures fell to an average of minus 0.7 degrees Celsius (30.7 degrees Fahrenheit), some 4.9 degrees below the normal average for the month of December.

In Ireland, the national meteorological service issued a severe weather warning that cold temperatures and widespread snow would continue into next week.

In Germany, snowfall caused motorway tailbacks of up to 40 kilometres (25 miles). Some regions reported shortages of petrol as tankers got stuck.

More than 200 flights were cancelled at Frankfurt airport, the country's busiest, and more than 100 at Munich airport in the south. Both of Berlin's main airports also reported cancellations and serious delays with more heavy snow forecast.

In Bulgaria, the largest Black Sea port of Varna was shut yesterday afternoon, while the other major port of Burgas re-opened around noon after a similar closure in the morning.

Traffic police urged motorists to avoid travel in all of eastern Bulgaria except in emergencies, while many people were stranded in their cars by heavy snowfall in the north-eastern region of Dobrich.

In the southeastern French city of Grenoble a motorist died after losing control of his car which overturned on fresh snow, police said.

In Italy, rare snowfall disrupted the tourist destinations of Pisa and Florence, forced both airports to close and severely disrupted traffic and the region's rail network.

Snow also fell briefly over Rome, where temperatures had dropped overnight to below zero, causing water in the capital's fountains to freeze.

Western Europe's biggest mosque opens in the Netherlands

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - Western Europe's biggest mosque opened yesterday in the Dutch city of Rotterdam, five years behind schedule with organisers blaming obstruction from far-right politicians for the delay.

The mosque, which is built with two 50-meter (164-foot) high minarets, can accommodate 3,000 worshippers and will be a center for charity, mutual understanding and forgiveness, said its chief administrator Abdelrazak Boutaher.

Construction began in 2003 and was slated to last

for two years, but organisers said far-right opposition had delayed the project.

"This horrible thing doesn't belong here but in Saudi Arabia," said Geert Wilders, the Dutch far-right leader, on his Twitter account.

The mosque is funded by the Al Maktoum Foundation, a charitable organisation established by Dubai's ruling family.

Immigrants account for about 25 percent of the Netherlands' population, but anti-immigrant feeling is strong with Wilders' Party for Freedom making strong gains in this year's general election

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Photo shows First lady Michelle Obama (C) helping sort toys donated to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots program at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, DC. With only a few days until Christmas, Obama joined about a dozen Marines in sorting some of the 100,000 toys that have been donated to children in need in the Washington, DC, area.

(AFP PHOTO)

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Agreement between White Yellow Cross and the Government to subsidize care of the elderly



Director of White Yellow Cross (WYC), Gino Goeloe and Minister of Social Affairs, Michelle Winklaar yesterday signed an agreement that will benefit scores of elderly citizens needing specialized at-home care. Most of those

needing this kind of care are unable to afford the cost for the care.

The newly signed agreement will provide at-home care for those needing this with the cost for the care being carried by the government. It is

believed that this type of care will reduce the pressure for finding suitable elderly care housing for our elderly who may be forced to relocate to an elderly facility so they can obtain this service.

Many elderly in our community still prefer to remain in their own homes with family and friends than to go to an elderly home. Families have traditionally cared for their elderly as far as this is possible. However, there are situations where the help of the WYC is necessary. And, it is in this context that this new agreement will be an exceptional support to those caring for their elderly at home.

Many of the island's Elderly Homes are fully occupied, and caring for the elderly by family members at home is a welcome alternative. Yet, many family members lack the skills and know-how of certain care procedures; and it is here where the services of the WYC is always crucial.

White Yellow Cross and the minister deliberated long over this project, but finally came up with the agreement that the government will purchase 1440 hours of service time as a pilot project and later evaluate to ascertain whether this should be augmented at a later stage depending on the demand.

The project consists of two parts: one part is called the non-professional assistance, such as cleaning, cooking and taking the elderly to doctor's appointments, and bathing or tending to simple wounds that do not require any nursing skills.

The other part is the professional part, such as administering medication orally and/or intravenously and the treatment and care of serious wounds requiring the skill of a trained nurse.

The minister assured everyone that this project is part of her vision to provide the best of care for those who, because of their age, are unable to care for themselves. This is another effort of the government to improve the quality of life of our elderly.

Revivexxx suspension

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Medicine Inspection announces that it is suspending the import on Revivexxx Extra Strength UPC (batch number) 83547000207 made by EZVille's Ltd.

The U.S. Federal Drug Administration performed analysis on the drug and confirmed it contain the ingredient Tadalafil. This is an active ingredient found in Viagra which is a registered drug on Aruba.

Revivexxx was also suspended because of its interaction with other drugs, such as nitrate, which is a component of nitroglycerine, an ingredient found in heart drugs.



The use of Tadalafil must be closely supervised by a house doctor.

Revivexxx users who may experience some discomfort are advised to contact the their house doctor immediately.

Heavy snow showers have brought Amsterdam, other Dutch cities to a standstill

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands -- The national meteorological institute (KNMI) issued a weather warning yesterday afternoon, calling on people to avoid travelling. In the middle of the rush hour, thousands of cars got stuck on motorways near Utrecht and Rotterdam. Up to 10 cms of snow has fallen in the Western half of the country, and the east will be affected too, making major traffic arteries unpassable.

Rail services had just returned to normal following a disruption in Utrecht, the central hub of the train system, when the snow set in and led to widespread delays. Amsterdam has cancelled all of its bus services, as have bus companies in some rural areas.

Weather forecasters say the snow is likely to continue throughout the weekend, with temperatures remaining below freezing until Monday.

Amsterdam's Schiphol airport has put up camp beds in departure lounges to cope with the hundreds of passengers to spend the night wait-

ing for flights.

The airport authority has called on all passengers not to come to the airport because almost all flights to European destinations have been cancelled because of the snow.

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'What is hot and what is not "Belly buttons are erogenous zones no more; now it's necklines and shoulders"



It has a speak of its own, a glamorous, hot and sexy image and it has the aura of celebrities and movie stars wafting around it: the fashion world. In this world it is very normal to say things like: "Belly buttons are erogenous zones no more; it's now necklines and shoulders", or talking about jeans:



"From very washed to very dark and the natural waist is back." An in-depth look into this interesting world is provided by local top designer Ronchi de Cuba, who has been making waves with his Trash label for the past few years.

Talent abounds in Ronchi, who lights up like a candle when talking about his passion: designing clothes. His store Trash by Ronchi in the Sibelius Street is hidden away in one of the side streets of the Adriaan Laclé Boulevard, yet everyone who is hip and cool, young or old, skinny or voluptuous, finds his or her way to Trash. One can find men's, girls' and women's clothes there in a wide array of colors, shapes and sizes. And especially that last thing is very important: Ronchi's ladies sizes

go from small to XXXX; in the men's collection until size 46 in pants and XXX. The prices are surprisingly reasonable.

"The Holiday collection is showing colors like violet, teal and turquoise, with a lot of black, black-and-white and the new black: grey," says

Ronchi. "The difference compared to last year is that there are fewer prints and more solid colors; only the animal prints continue. They have been in style for the past three years and won't go away soon," he predicts. The designer's personal favorite this year is the short, elegant cocktail dress, which started a year or two ago with movie stars and celebrities wearing them at the Oscars, the Grammy's and MTV award shows.

Of course evening dresses show a lot of skin, yet there is also a trend surfacing with cap shoulders and straight shoulder pads with elbow-length sleeves. The fabrics are luxurious: silk charmeuse is a favorite. It is one of the most elegant materials on the planet, popular as a lightweight fabric that drapes beautifully. It is smooth and has a semi-lustrous shine to it. Various Trash designs show off the versatility of charmeuse to perfection. Chiffon is also hot, especially when combined with a striking leather jacket or contrasting material. "The wow factor of the dress is now more the cut and the fabric than the color or print; mixing fabrics should be harmonious and eclectic, for instance a fun mix of a light wool jacket with a chiffon skirt," explains Ronchi.

But how does one go about designing four collections each year, and how does one fill an entire store with stunning retail fashion? That last question is easy to answer: Ronchi goes shopping in New York and he can select whatever he likes from special wholesale pick-and-choose designer collec-


tions. He also carries several labels: for men that is the mod fit of Ben Sherman, Spanish label Desigual and Canadian Penguin; in ladies' wear he carries Studio, Dana Kay, Jump Girl and Onyx, just to name a few. This year's hottest suits for men are chocolate-colored, with Paisley ties or striped ties; casual wear is preppier than before, with skinny pants and a tee-shirt or shirt; of course you can find them at Trash.

Trends are carefully watched and researched by Ronchi: the international fashion shows are covered extensively by magazines like Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, but there is also a service from New York called Trend Watch. This service provides the an-




swers to 'What is hot and what is not' and it offers tips and hints for upcoming trends and dominant features that are making the grade. But Ronchi's inspiration for his designer collection comes from music, art, people and movies. He keeps the two strictly separated: "My designs are one-of-a-kind, made with exclusive fabrics, which I sometimes design myself. It is a niche market, not mass produced. His coming collection has been inspired by Erté (1892-1990), the father of art-deco, Romain de Tiroff. This Russian-born, diversely-talented 20th century artist flourished in a wide array of fields, including fashion, jewelry, graphic art and set designs. He used his initials R.T. as his name.

Fashion is always on the move, on the prowl and on the go. Local designer and fashion guru Ronchi de Cuba is right on top of it.



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Bones found on Pacific island may belong to Amelia Earhart

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AFP) - In one of aviation's most enduring mysteries, Earhart took off from Lae, in what is now Papua New Guinea, while attempting to circumnavigate the globe via the equator in 1937 and was never seen again.

A massive search at the time failed to find the flyer and her navigator Fred Noonan, who were assumed to have died after ditching their Lockheed Electra aircraft in the ocean, according to the Amelia Earhart Museum.

Now aviation enthusiasts from US-based group The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) say they have evidence suggesting the pair made it safely to Nikumaroro Island in Kiribati and lived as castaways.

TIGHAR executive director Rick Gillespie said the group, which has carried out 10 expeditions to Nikumaroro over the past 22 years, found three small bone fragments on the uninhabited island earlier this year.

Gillespie said the bones appeared to be part of a human finger, although they could also be from a turtle, and had been sent to the Molecular Sci-

ence Laboratories at Oklahoma University for DNA analysis.

Backing Gillespie's theory that Earhart ended her days stranded on Nikumaroro, he said TIGHAR also found artefacts dating from the 1930s, including a woman's make-up compact, broken mirror and small US-made bottles.

"We have every reason to believe that this is the site where Amelia Earhart lived and died as a castaway," he said.

Gillespie said his decades-long quest to determine Earhart's fate had involved "many ups and downs", so he was not yet claiming to have definitive proof she washed up on Nikumaroro but the possibility was worth investigating.

"The magic of the Earhart mystery is such that just having a bone, that may be a human bone, that may lead to DNA that may turn out to match Earhart's DNA is of great interest," he said.

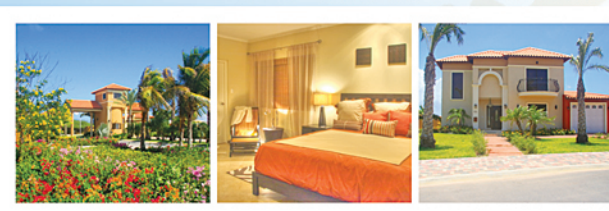
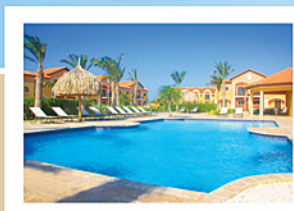
He said even if the Oklahoma DNA tests showed a link to Earhart, the bones would be tested by a second independent laboratory to verify the findings. "This has been a very rigorous investigation," he said.

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Dignitaries and AAA executives welcome inaugural Tiara Air Maracaibo flight

Continued from page 1



Traditional inaugural flight water cannon salute



Venezuelan Consul General Dr. Jesus Javier Arias Fuenmayor cuts the ribbon

A line of island dignitaries including Aruba Tourism Authority representative Frits Israel and Director of the Aruba Airport Authority, Peter Steinmetz, also welcomed the incoming flight. Mr. Steinmetz congratulated Tiara Air on their great success of the last four years. Beginning with two flights a day to Curaçao, the airlines has grown phenomenally to now conduct 65 flights weekly to Punto Fijo, Venezuela, Riohacha, Colombia and the island of Bonaire.

Mr. Steinmetz complimented Tiara Air management for their foresight in responding to a need in the market and for their ambitious plans for



Crew and first passengers of Maracaibo flight are welcomed by island dignitaries and Tiara executives

2011, including new destinations, which he could not reveal at this time. He presented Alejandro Muyale a gift of appreciation for the bold management and planning that has enabled a locally owned and based airline to expand their services so successfully.

The new Maracaibo flight will depart and return to Aruba four days per week, every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

and Sunday. The plane used is a Shorts 360 which accommodates 33 passengers. Reservations can be made by calling 588-4278 or 582-0901, or visiting their ticket offices at the airport, Sabana Blanco and in Sun Plaza. For more detailed flight information and online reservations, visit their website: www.tiara-air.com.

by Rosalie Klein

Sci-Tech

Old catching up to young on internet



Older folks are closing ground on youngsters quick to leap on hot Internet trends such as social networking and online shopping, according to a Pew Research Center study. Photo depicts members of the Computer Grannies Society making computer graphics for their e-mails at an Internet cafe for elderly people in Tokyo. About 55 percent of "Older Boomers" ages 56 to 64 have watched video online, as have one-in-five members of the "G.I. Generation" ages 74 and older.

Japan's Sharp to 'build LCD lines' for smartphones

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Sharp Corp. will build production lines to make small and mid-sized liquid crystal displays for smartphones including Apple's iPhone, a report said Friday.

Sharp will invest about 100 billion yen (1.2 billion dollars) in the project with Apple shouldering a large portion of the sum and buying most of the panels produced, the Nikkei business daily said.

A Sharp spokeswoman declined to comment on the report.

Sharp has also supplied LCD panels for Apple's iPod touch music player.

The production lines will be installed at Sharp's plant in Kameyama in the central Japan prefecture of Mie, Nikkei said.

The plant, launched in 2004 to produce large LCD panels for televisions, has been empty since Sharp sold production equipment to a Chinese electronics manufacturer last year, the daily said.

Sharp will start installing

equipment next year, and mass production is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2012, according to the paper.

Smartphone demand is expanding worldwide, encouraging major investment by Japanese electronics makers. Toshiba Corp. plans to build a factory at home to boost LCD supplies to Apple, the paper said.

Apple releases Digital Camera Raw Compatibility Update 3.5

Apple on Thursday released an update for Aperture 3 and iPhoto '11 to add raw image support for certain Canon, Leica, Nikon, and Panasonic cameras.

The list of lucky cameras supported in the Digital Camera Raw Compatibility Update 3.5 includes the Canon PowerShot G12, Leica D-Lux 5, Leica V-Lux 2, Nikon D7000, Nikon COOLPIX P7000, Panasonic Lumix DMC-GF2, and Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH2. The full list of cameras that Apple supports can be found on the company's Website.

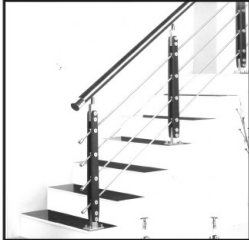



Dropbox updated to 1.0, brings selective sync to masses

Dropbox has been one of the easiest ways to sync files across multiple computers since its initial release in 2008. On Thursday evening, the company officially rolled out version 1.0 of the program, bringing with it a whole host of improvements, including—to the joy of

MacBook Air users everywhere—support for selective folder sync.

According to the company, the update features "huge performance enhancements" thanks to a completely rewritten back-end; Dropbox claims version 1.0 reduces the strain on your

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Nissan's Electric car Leaf's battery 'can be used at home'



TOKYO (AFP) — Renault-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn has suggested that an electric car's rechargeable battery could be used in the home long after the vehicle has died.

Ghosn made the claim in

Tokyo Thursday ahead of the Japanese launch in the new year of Nissan's Leaf, an all-electric car for the mass market.

He said the battery in the Leaf -- expected to last 10 years -- would have a lifes-

pan "almost beyond that of the car", referring to the fact that the average duration of use of the car was expected to be shorter.

"You can reuse it after in your home," said Ghosn, who is chief executive of Nissan and its partner Renault, tied through cross-shareholdings.

Ghosn said Nissan had formed a joint venture with trading house Sumitomo. "It will buy used batteries to sell to individuals" to use in their homes for domestic applications.

Nissan, 45 percent of which is owned by Renault, relies heavily on its electric car business, in which it has already invested more than four billion euros (five billion dollars).

Google launches 'Body Browser'

On Thursday, Google launched the Google Body Browser, said to be a Google Earth-like experience for the human body.

Unfortunately, PCMag.com could not get the new application to work, a problem shared by at least one other commenter on the page. Google published the Body Browser as an in-browser tool.

"Body Browser is a detailed 3D model of the human body," Google said in an introduction. "You can peel back anatomical layers, zoom

in, and navigate to parts that interest you. Click to identify anatomy, or search for muscles, organs, bones and more."

The Body Browser requires a browser, such as the beta version of Chrome, with WebGL. WebGL, a 3D graphics API that can be run directly within the browser, was implemented in the Chrome beta that was launched earlier this week.

The 3D model, which is female, can also be rotated and zoomed in and out.



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Health & Living

Human rights court condemns Ireland over abortion

STRASBOURG, France (AFP) – The European Court of Human Rights recently condemned Ireland for obliging a woman suffering from cancer and who feared a pregnancy would worsen her health to have an abortion abroad.

The court in a definitive ruling awarded 15,000 euros in damages to the complainant, a Lithuanian living in Ireland, saying her rights to privacy and family life had been violated.

But it dismissed the plea of two Irish women who like the first had to travel to Britain to end their pregnancies because of Irish law making abortion a criminal offence if there was no risk to the life of the mother.

The court found existing Irish procedures effectively made it impossible for the Lithuanian complainant to establish this risk and avoid prosecution under a 150-year-old law providing for life imprisonment for abortion.

The woman, in remission from cancer and unaware that she was pregnant, had undergone check-ups that were not advised during pregnancy.



"Once she discovered she was pregnant, she believed that there was a risk that her pregnancy would cause a relapse of the cancer and was thus concerned for her health and life," the court said.

"She was also concerned about a risk to the foetus if she continued to term and claimed she could not obtain clear advice. She therefore decided to have an abortion in England."

"Although she believed her pregnancy put her life at risk, there was no law or procedure through which she could have that, and -- as a result - her right to an abortion in Ireland, established," the court said.

"It was evident that the criminal provisions of the 1861 Act constituted a significant chilling factor for women and doctors as they both ran a risk of a serious criminal conviction and imprisonment if an initial doctor's opinion that abortion was an option as it posed a risk to the woman's health was later found to be against the Irish Constitution," it said.

Recourse to the Irish courts was also ineffective, as the constitutional courts were not appropriate for the primary determination of whether a woman qualified for a lawful

abortion.

In the case of the other two, the court ruled that while most Council of Europe member countries had fewer restrictions on abortion, the question of when life began came within an individual state's margin of appreciation.

It concluded that the existing prohibition on abortion in Ireland generally struck a fair balance between the right to respect of private life and the rights invoked on behalf of the unborn.

The court referred to "the right to travel abroad to obtain an abortion and to appropriate pre- and post-abortion medical care in Ireland, as well as to the fact that the impugned prohibition in Ireland on abortion for health or well-being reasons was based on the profound moral values of the Irish people in respect of the right to life of the unborn."

One of the two was unmarried, unemployed and living in poverty, with four children all of whom had been placed in foster care.

A former alcoholic struggling with depression, she decided to have an abortion to avoid jeopardising her chances of reuniting her family. She paid for it in a private clinic in Britain with cash borrowed from a money lender.

The second was not prepared to become a single parent. While initially she feared an ectopic pregnancy, she was aware that it was not prior to travelling to Britain for an abortion.

The court found the psychological and physical burden undoubtedly suffered by all three women as a result of their travelling abroad for an abortion had not been sufficiently grave to represent inhuman or degrading treatment.

Sex addicts fear intimacy, threatened by relationships: study



"There's no known effective treatment. We don't know what causes it or how we treat it."

Because of the embarrassment people feel discussing the subject, Faislander's study used an anonymous online survey to quiz 621 people about their sex lives. 407 identified themselves as sex addicts while 214 were not.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AFP) - Sex addicts feel threatened by intimacy and are more insecure about romantic relationships than the rest of the population, a New Zealand study has found.

The survey of more than 600 people found those who indulged in compulsive sexual behaviour felt anxious and insecure about relationships and tried to avoid becoming too emotionally attached to others.

Massey University said the study, conducted by psychology honours student Karen Faislander under the supervision of a practising clinical psychologist and an academic specialist, was the first of its type in New Zealand.

Faislander said sex addiction, which made headlines this year with revelations about Tiger Woods' love life, was a complex condition that had not been researched as thoroughly as areas such as substance abuse or depression.

She said the term "sex addict" first emerged in the early 1980s and there were 29 other terms in scientific literature that described the condition, including sexual compulsivity, excessive sexual desire disorder and hypersexuality.

The preferred contemporary term is out-of-control sexual behaviours (OOSCH).

"It's widely misunderstood and stigmatised," Faislander told AFP.

The survey asked if they engaged in online sex, prostitution, sex in public or with multiple partners, as well as examining areas such as alcohol use and feelings of self worth.

"The OOSCB group reported higher rates of insecure styles of attachment, characterised by a perspective of relationships as threatening, and feelings of either anxiety towards or avoidance of closeness or intimacy," the study found.

In contrast, non-sex addicts found intimacy desirable and rewarding, felt secure in relationships and regarded their partners as trustworthy.

Faislander said studies estimated 3-6 percent of the population had the condition in the US, where sex addiction clinics have sprung up in recent years treating stars such as Woods, actor David Duchovny and comedian Russell Brand.

She said no such treatment was available in New Zealand, where self-help groups including Sex and Love Addicts and Sexaholics Anonymous use 12-step programs based on those pioneered by Alcoholics Anonymous.

While Faislander's study was not peer reviewed, she hopes to gain a doctorate in clinical psychology and conduct further research on treating out-of-control sexual behaviours.



Combat Dengue

Keep around
your house
and yard clean

In the mood for BBQ-discover where islanders go: Baby Back Ribs



Every town has this ideal location for a terrific restaurant, but eateries come and go because none quite gets the recipe right for good food and appealing price; Oranjestad had such a spot at the far end of its main street, and brother Merly and sister Joanne Kelly came up with the solution. The island ambiance allows diners to relax and watch as the world goes by, offering a window on local life.

Arubans love their barbecue, but so many places offer it, you better be sure you have the quality at the right price with appealing side dishes to compete. Baby Back Ribs has occupied this cute little corner for three years now, and is an unqualified success. Luncheon and dinner time you will see the locals lined up to either take home a serving stacked with a large selection of favorite regional dishes, such as Saté or the always popular standards of BBQ chicken or ribs.

Baby Back Ribs has been such a success it earned a spot in the Lonely Planet Caribbean Guide, which is dedicated to finding those great out of the way places tourists rarely discover and offer an authentic taste of their destination. Kristina and Shawn arrived on a cruise ship all the way from Alaska



Dig in



Shawn thanks lonely planet for a great recommendation

and confirmed that searching out Baby Back Ribs was well worth the effort. They shared the restaurant's ample portion of succulent spare ribs and awarded it two thumbs up.

Aside from the regular menu, the eatery offers at least three specials per day; usually costing \$5.50 for a regular portion and \$7 for the large, enough to feed two. They stay open late to cure a case of after disco munchies,

and you can pre-order to take back to your timeshare or hotel room by calling 582-4410.

If you are planning a shopping trip to town, pencil it in as your lunch stop and be sure to order one of their great homemade sauces, such as Chimichuri Picante or Papaya Pica for an authentic taste of island cuisine.

by Rosalie Klein

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other in-



Grandma's stoba with classic rice & beans and homemade potato beet salad

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

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Charlie Koolman's Rancho Behia gets visit from Minister of Agriculture... and Charlie is delighted!



Last week Minister Oduber, in charge of LVV, the department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries, paid a courtesy visit to Rancho Behia where he met proprietor Charlie Koolman.

Here Oduber got a detailed explanation of how peanuts are planted and harvested.

Mr. Koolman, an avid agriculturist, has an impressive plantation of watermelon, melon, okra, and a gigantic plantation of peanuts. His peanut harvest yields in the excess of 100 kilos per day. Koolman's plantation is but a hobby and is a family affair.

The minister was impressed with this type of activity where agricultural skills are passed on from one generation to another and the love for planting is inculcated into young children who in turn will keep this important sector alive for generations to come.

Oduber's vision is to provide incentives to help promote agriculture among our people, and to provide the necessary tools to ensure that this sector of our economy can continue to grow with more people taking advantage of the opportunity to plant.

It is in this vein that the Department of LVV has embarked on a new approach to those involved in agriculture, providing better service, and critical information to support their efforts. LVV has become more pro-active and agricultural entrepreneurs are extremely pleased with the new service and support.

Member of LVV's Management Team, Nathalie Maduro, was on hand to demonstrate the Team's commitment to the efforts of all agricultural endeavors on the island.

Charlie Koolman expressed his satisfaction with the government's new approach to agriculture and for the dedicated interest shown to all agriculturists on Aruba.

Magriet Pourier is another winner of SETAR N.V.'s "One Minute Shopping Spree"



Magriet Pourier has been chosen as one of the happy winners of SETAR N.V.'S "One Minute Shopping Spree." She chose Hong Kong in San Nicolas as her supermarket.

As part of its Christmas campaign, all SETAR clients receive a ticket to participate for the chance to win. Winners can pick the supermarket of their choice to shop and fill

their cart for a maximum value of Afls.1, 000 in one-minute-time.

Mrs. Pourier was assisted by her daughter-in-law in San Nicolas and together they managed to fill two carts full.

Photo shows Mrs. Pourier with her daughter-in-law during their "One Minute Shopping Spree."



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ACROSS

1. Native of Ankara
5. Liquid measure
9. Shed tears
12. Algerian seaport
13. German river
14. Color
15. Auction
16. Finish second
17. ____ Arbor
18. Vest's lack
20. Pack down

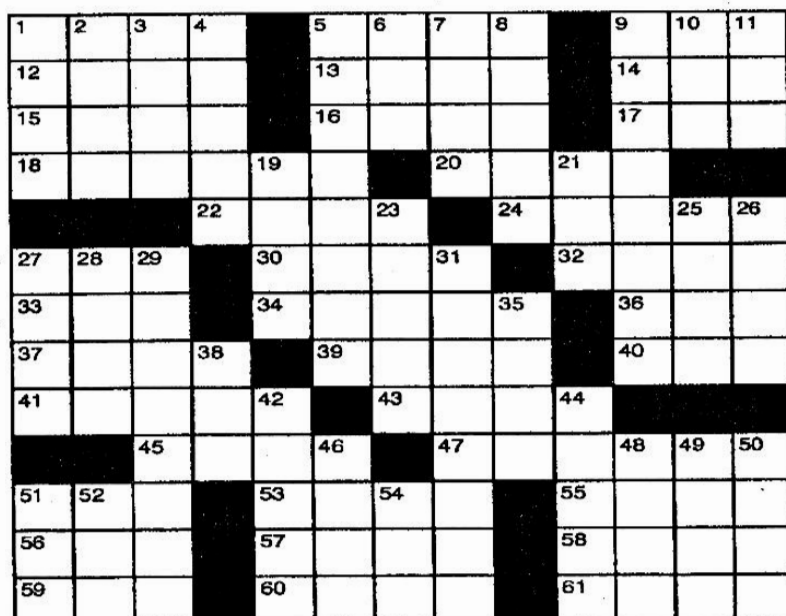
DOWN

22. Speech defect
24. Adolescent years
27. Obstruct
30. Sweetsop
32. Stumble
33. Bard's before
34. Roman household gods
36. Harem part
37. Helper
39. Frost
40. Clear profit
41. Coquettish one

43. Evil look
45. Starchy rootstock
47. Bath or cake
51. Extinct bird
53. Border on
55. Actor Coleman
56. Table scrap
57. Burrowing animal
58. Border lake
59. Summer shirt
60. Nobleman
61. Rubies

DOWN

1. ____ a coin
2. Asian river



3. Breathing sound
4. Genuflect
5. Guiding principle
6. Wedding response
7. Cozy home
8. Act as host
9. Escort
10. Sprint
11. Longing
19. Small perfume bottle
21. Assembled
23. Danger
25. Brood of pheasants
26. Young oyster
27. Inattentive
28. Seed covering
29. Ponder
31. School term
35. Ooze
38. Time period
42. Walk hard and long
44. Pilot's "okay"
46. Woodwind instrument
48. Nostril
49. Network
50. Potato buds
51. Clever remark
52. Mine product
54. Rubber tree

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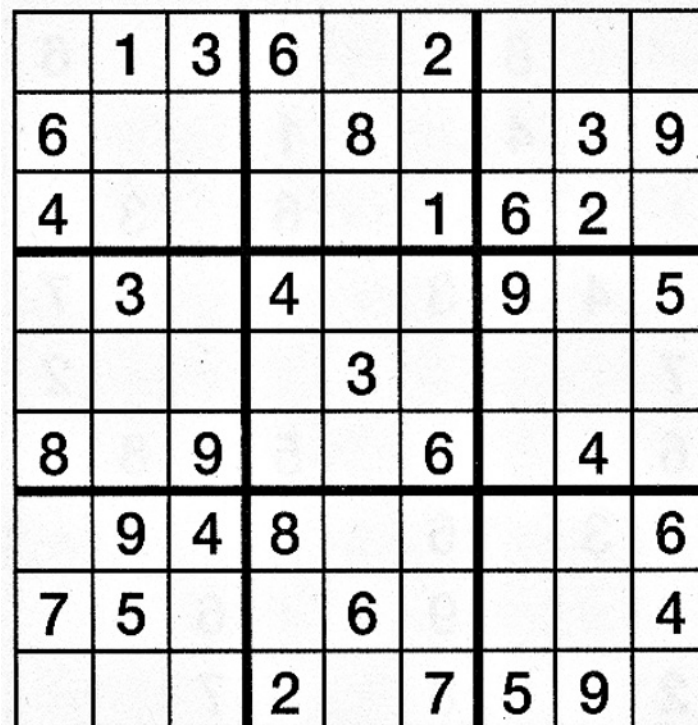
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	6	9	2	4	7	8	9	5
4	8	2	5	9	6	1	9	2
9	2	5	9	1	8	7	6	2
5	7	2	9	5	1	6	2	8
2	1	8	6	5	2	9	7	4
9	9	6	8	2	7	4	5	1
2	2	9	1	6	5	9	8	7
6	8	1	4	8	9	2	2	9
8	9	7	2	2	9	5	1	6

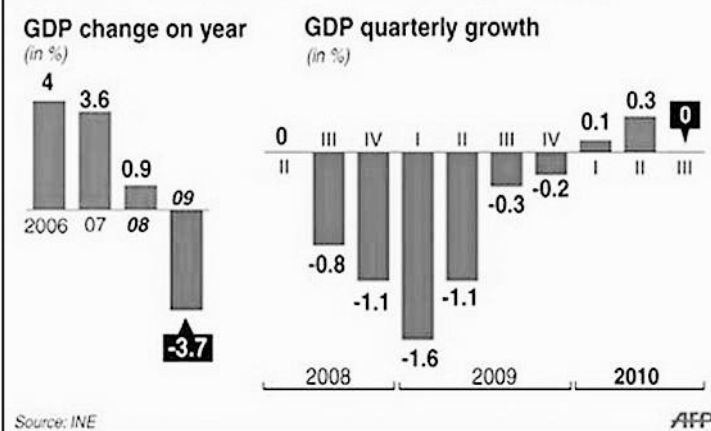
Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance



Honda yesterday announced the recall of nearly 36,000 vehicles in the United States because of a defect which could lead to excessive corrosion in areas where road salt is used extensively. (AFP PHOTO)

Spain's economic recovery stalls



A chart showing the evolution of Spain's GDP per quarter since 2008 and annually since 2006. Moody's rating agency threatened Wednesday to downgrade Spain's credit rating, hammering markets as it warned of a 170-billion-euro refinancing challenge ahead in 2011.

Venezuela increases state control over banks

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - Venezuela's legislature approved a law early yesterday increasing state control over the banking system in what the opposition warned was a prelude to nationalization.

The law strengthens the power of the superintendence of banks "to control and apply sanctions against the institutions and persons that form part of the financial sector."

It declares the banking system a public utility, places limits on the formation of financial groups and bars banks from having an interest in brokerage firms or insurance companies.

It was the latest in a series of measures that President Hugo Chavez has sought to ram through the National Assembly before January, when he loses the near absolute control over the legislature that he has enjoyed since 2005.

Chavez, speaking to the nation late Thursday, said he has

"nearly ready" some 20 laws that he will announce as soon as the legislature grants him decree-ruling powers.

Chavez asked for the special powers to quickly deal with heavy rain and flooding of the past weeks that has killed 38 people and affected some 130,000.

But the opposition charges that his aim is to amass power at a time when the opposition is poised to gain greater representation in a new National Assembly in January.

These laws are being approved "without any type of control, without any type of consultation," said deputy-elect Julio Borges. "They have a single purpose: to give the government more power and to take power away from the people."

The Venezuelan state already owns about 25 percent of the banking system due in part to a series of government takeovers of financially troubled banks.

Madoff investor's estate forfeits 7.2 billion dollars

NEW YORK (AFP) - Thousands of people who lost money in Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme got good news yesterday when the estate of an investor who earned a fortune from the fraud agreed to surrender 7.2 billion dollars.

The money from estate of late Madoff ally Jeffry Picower "is the largest forfeiture recovery in US history," federal prosecutor Preet Bharara told a press conference.

"The entire 7.2 billion dollars will be distributed to the victims. We expect to distribute the money in the new year," he added.

Court-appointed trustee Irving Picard is clawing back money from Madoff family members and investors who profited from the decades-long pyramid scheme, or Ponzi fraud, the biggest in Wall Street history.

The big haul from Picower's estate quadruples the size of the trustee's fund.

Picower, who made billions as one of Madoff's top investors, died October 2009 of a heart attack in his Florida swimming pool, just under a



Jeffry Picower

year after Madoff was arrested.

His widow, Barbara Picower, said: "It is a great tragedy that my husband Jeffry's sudden and untimely death last fall prevented him from seeing the timely and full restoration of his reputation for honesty, integrity and professional achievement."

"He was committed to overcoming the devastation resulting from Bernard Madoff's fraud by reaching a fair and generous settlement with Mr Picard."

Madoff, serving a 150-year prison sentence, was arrested in December 2008 and pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court to running a Ponzi scheme that Picard has estimated lost some 20 billion dollars of investors' money.

Prior to the 7.2 billion haul announced yesterday, Picard had recouped some 2.6 billion dollars, partly through confiscation of Madoff family properties and auction of personal belongings.

Euro rescue pledges fail to dispel market unease

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) - European Union leaders yesterday vowed to defend debt-plagued euro nations with a permanent bailout mechanism, but their pledges made little impression on markets as Ireland was hit with a punishing debt downgrade.

EU President Herman Van Rompuy, speaking at the close of a two-day EU summit, said plans to rewrite a key treaty and to set up the emergency rescue fund from mid-2013 would make the eurozone "more crisis-proof."

The successor to a temporary, IMF-backed trillion-dollar facility created after a debt crisis rocked Greece, would anchor "a comprehensive response to any challenges, as part of the eurozone's new economic governance."

But analysts were quick to fault the deal for its lack of substance and absence of detail.

European stock markets fell yesterday, also weighed down by news of a sharp downgrade on Irish debt.

Moody's Investors Service said it had slashed Ireland's sovereign credit rating

by five notches, citing increased uncertainty over the country's economy and public finances.

Ireland, struggling to rein in debt, was recently accorded an 85-billion-euro (113-billion-dollar) EU-IMF bailout, a rescue that followed similar action on behalf of Greece in May.

In London, FTSE 100 index shed 0.16 percent to finish at 5,871.75 points while in Paris the CAC 40 lost 0.54 percent to close at 3,867.35. The Frankfurt DAX fell 0.60 percent to 6,982.45.

The euro too came under downward pressure against the dollar, which was bolstered by positive US economic data.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the EU summit "clearly stated that the euro cannot be dissociated from Europe" and insisted that the size of the future bailout fund, poised to introduce penalties for private-sector holders of government debt, would be "convincing."

Alongside Ireland, Greece has also had to call in emergency EU-IMF loans, with

Portugal, Spain, Belgium and even Italy likewise considered at risk by experts going into 2011.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, more interested in crimping the bloc's budget for the next decade, wanted to ensure that non-euro London -- which volunteered loans for Ireland -- would not be required to participate in future rescues.

"What Britain has secured in black and white is a clear and unanimous agreement that from 2013 Britain will not be dragged into bailing out the eurozone," Cameron said

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ARAB CHILI DEANS ALAD
BALT HONOR ADLAI PIMA
BUTCHICKOK MATDILLON
EVA ARKS STARE ENOSIS
HIPS JOHNS FARM
ARDORS TAMES BERIBBON
REAPS BEDEW ALEM UNA
BANS SORE IMBED DEFAT
ODI STUNS LOESS DEBIT
REENTERS ADATS HARAR
LORAN NEWTS BETEL
ADEAM MARTS BLACKOUT
SCOLD PERIL BROTH GPS
COOS INKED RATS LISA
URN NETS WEANS BALER
PNEUMATO BECKS VAULTS
NOVA AISLE BEND
SIENNA AMATI SERT NEO
GASEYJONES PAULBUNYAN
AGAS OPINE SEPIA ERSE
BOUT SALTIS EASEL PEER

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ShabbyShic is located at Avenida Milio Croes 12. Opening hours are from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. nonstop from Monday thru Saturday.

ShabbyShic is a very unique store on the island of Aruba and you will surely enjoy the ambience the store gives to its customers!!!



Sunday: NFL tail-gate BBQ from 10:30 a.m. Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellow-pages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry



all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Mon-

day to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

by Rosalie Klein

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Obese New Zealanders put the squeeze on cemeteries



WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AFP) – New Zealanders' expanding waistlines are creating a weighty problem for funeral directors, who cannot fit cadavers in their crematories and have resorted to selling double burial plots, reports said Friday.

Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand president Tony Garing said the size of the standard coffin had increased as obesity rates soared.

"Caskets are getting wider to accommodate people, so it

is the width that is the issue," he told new agency NZPA, adding the standard coffin was now 58 centimetres (23 inches) at the shoulder, up from 48 centimetres.

Noelene Mudgway, manager of Auckland's Manukau Memorial Gardens, said cremation was not an option for some families saying their last farewell to a supersized loved one.

"Our cremators aren't wide enough to take people who are severely obese," she said.

Mudgway said the cemetery tried to accommodate large coffins by burying them in plots at the end of a row, where they would not encroach on other graves.

But she said the solution sometimes involved selling families two adjoining plots, each 1.2 metres wide, at a cost of 2,520 dollars (1,865 US) each.

One-in-four New Zealanders is obese, according to the health ministry, rising to almost two-in-three among the country's Pacific Islander communities.



**DO NOT use
your mobile
while DRIVING**

'Pink Panther' director Blake Edwards dies



LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) – Oscar-winning director Blake Edwards, who made the "Pink Panther" movies and the 1961 classic "Breakfast at Tiffany's," has died at the age of 88, his agent said.

Edwards, who died Wednesday, worked with cinema legends including Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in a career stretching more than half a century.

Married to actress Julie Andrews, he also famously rated actress Bo Derek a perfect "10" in the 1979 film of that name with Dudley Moore, and won a honorary lifetime achievement Oscar in 2004.

But he is probably best known for the "Pink Panther" series starting in 1963, in which bumbling Inspector Clouseau played by British actor Peter Sellers hunts David Niven's aristocratic jewel thief Sir Charles Lytton.

"He was the most unique man I have ever known -- and he was my mate. He will be missed beyond words and will forever be in my heart," his wife said in a statement.

He died in Santa Monica Wednesday night "surrounded by his family, including his adoring wife of 41 years, Julie Andrews," from complications

of pneumonia, said Edward's agent Lou Pitt.

Born William Blake Crump in Tulsa, Oklahoma on July 26, 1922, Edwards was a stepson of stage director Jack McEdwards. He grew up in the film business, went to school with children of Hollywood stars and roomed with actor Mickey Rooney.

After a brief stint as an actor, Edwards mastered behind-the-camera crafts including screenwriting, directing and producing. He began as a script writer for a radio detective show where the first glimmers of his humor appeared.

The "Pink Panther" movies -- with their infectious theme music scored by Henri Mancini -- were immediate blockbusters, although Edwards did not always see eye to eye with Sellers.

The men clashed on the set, but Edwards allowed Sellers to make a bumbler out of Clouseau and move the character to the center of the plot. It worked.

They made seven films altogether between 1964 and 1978. But the relationship between the two men soured, and at the time of Sellers' death in 1980, Edwards was working on a new Clouseau movie without him.

"Peter Sellers became a monster. He just got bored with the part and became angry, sullen and unprofessional," Edwards said in remarks on the industry website imdb.

In the end, Edwards was to work closest with Andrews, who ditched her most holy image as the nun Maria in the "Sound of Music" to play a



cross-dresser in his 1992 film and 1995 stage production of "Victor/Victoria."

She even famously bared her breasts in his 1981 film, "S.O.B."

Art imitating life became a natural and recurring theme for Edwards, and he was accused of doing just that in "S.O.B.," about a director whose wholesome film starring his wife bombs.

To save the movie, the director decides to make it steamier and win a Restricted rating by adding nude shots of his wife, but Edwards was accused of manipulating Andrews.

Edwards named Jack Lemmon as his favorite actor to work with. He played Jack Clay, who slides into alcoholism with his wife, played by Lee Remick, in the 1962 film "Days of Wine and Roses."

Edwards' films range widely in subject, including the coming-out story of "Breakfast at Tiffany's," adapted from the Truman Capote novel, earning Oscars for Hepburn, Mancini and Johnny Mercer, who wrote the lyrics to "Moon River."

Edwards is survived by Andrews, his second wife whom he married in 1969, along with their five children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, his agent said.

Giant pink snails take over Miami Beach

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) – Dozens of giant pink snails have invaded Miami Beach in what appears to be a bizarre cartoon migration along Florida's sun soaked coast, but is fact an art project to promote a clean environment.

The international REgeneration Art Project, which has already made its mark in Paris, Milan and Prague among other cities, will remain in this tourist-favored beach community until January 3, said organizers Cracking Art Group.

The 45 colorful mollusks,

which are made of recycled plastic, are intended to "play with the city in order to rebuild it ideally and mentally," said the international artistic collective Cracking Art Group, which has joined forces with Italy's Galleria Ca d'Oro for the project.

Placed throughout the city, the huge pink snails are "designed to inspire a community-wide conversation about the importance of recycling



and its environmental impact, while leaving a potent artistic trace on the Miami Beach community," said the organizers.

Recordman Lochte destroys field for third gold

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - Ryan Lochte destroyed a classy field to claim a third gold medal and a second world record at the World Short Course Championships in Dubai last night, beating the former world mark by just over a second.

The US swimmer's 1:50.08 swim was 2.83 seconds ahead of Austria's silver medalist, Markus Rogan and 3.48 in front of his compatriot, Scott Clary.

"This is amazing. I started very fast and did a very fast last 25m and the result is a world record. I just focused on going out faster than the rest of the field," said Lochte, whose medal spree so far this championship also includes gold in the 200m freestyle and a world record in the 400m individual medley.

"When I was doing backstroke I looked up at the screen and saw I was just in front of the world record line and that motivated me to the breaststroke and freestyle."

Also taking home some hardware was Swedish powerhouse, Therese Alshammar, who won the women's 50m butterfly in a new championship mark of 24.87. Australia's Felicity Galvez was snapping at her heels in second and a time of 24.94.

"It was always going to be tough, it's been a catfight between the both of us all the way through the heats and the semi-finals," said Galvez.

"But I have to be happy with that time. It was a lifetime best and I can't complain, but there are always things I can improve on. Maybe next time."

Alshammar's win took her all-time tally of medals won at a short course world championship to 16, one short of the USA's Jenny Thompson.

Brazilian Cesar Cielo was the emotional victor of the men's 50m freestyle, claiming a championship record on the night in a time of 20.51. Frederick Bousquet was second in 20.81 while Josh Schneider was third in 20.88.

Germany's Paul Biedermann silenced the critics who

call him 'Mr Suit,' referring to his dip in form since last year's FINA suit ban, clinching gold in the 400m freestyle, starting from lane eight.

"I was a little disappointed with my early swims," he said after a lacklustre performance in the 200m freestyle on the opening day. Biedermann had been swimming behind eventual bronze medalist, Oussama Mellouli from Tunisia and Russia's Nikita Lobinstev and made his move in the final 50m, finishing in 3:37.06

"It was not my plan to win like that," he said. "I just kept my eye on Nikita and pushed as hard as I could. They call me 'Mr Suit', but I'm training harder than ever to prove my critics wrong."

The tussle between Japan's Naoya Tomita and Hungary's Daniel Gyurta continued in the final of the 200m breaststroke. Tomita had broken the championship record in his semi-final before Gyurta broke it again in the next semi.

US ice queen Kwan says comeback unlikely



SINGAPORE (AFP) - US ice queen Michelle Kwan misses competitive figure skating a lot but the five-time world champion says a return to the rink is unlikely, as finishing grad school is her priority right now.

"I do miss it. I miss it so much," superstar Kwan told AFP in an interview in Singapore, but said it was "unlikely" she would compete again at the highest level.

A nine-time US champion, Kwan had contemplated making a return to qualify for the Vancouver Winter

In the evening's final, Tomita had the last laugh, breaking the championship record once more to win gold in a time of 2:03.12. Gyurta had to be content with 2:03.47.

"I have raced against him a number of times and I don't just consider Daniel my competition, I consider everyone my competition," said a jubilant Tomita.

Gyurta warned that the rivalry was not over.

"He won this time but wait until next time," he said.

The Chinese women are dominating the relay at this meet, with the foursome of Zhao Jing, Zhao Jin, Liu Zige and Tang Yi just missing out on a world record by .32sec after finishing in 3:48.29 in a very close final.

Natalie Coughlin, Rebecca Soni, Dana Vollmer and Jessica Hardy won silver for the USA in 3:48.36, while Australia's Rachel Goh, Rebecca Soni, Felicity Galvez and Marieke Guehrer took bronze in 3:48.88

Olympics for another shot at the elusive gold medal.

But she eventually decided that completing her graduate course at Tufts University near Boston, where she is studying for a master's degree in international affairs, was more important.

"If you ask any of my close friends and family, I don't have any commitment issues in terms of going after what I want, and that was the thing," said Kwan, who trained extensively to see whether she could still do her trademark triple jumps and spins before Vancouver.

"I had to make a very tough decision to focus on school as oppose to focusing on skating."

"And I said, 'Oh well what's most important for me right now is grad school,' and so I kind of took that path."

Kwan, 30, is the most decorated American figure skater in history.

She won an unprecedented 43 major titles, including five World Championships and nine US Championships -- including eight in a row from 1998 -- with only an Olympic gold medal missing from her illustrious career.

She settled for silver at the 1998 Nagano Olympics and bronze in 2002 at Salt Lake City.



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Infamous doping test list to be destroyed

NEW YORK (AFP) - Drug test information for more than 100 Major League Baseball players that was seized by federal authorities in 2004 will be destroyed to end a six-year legal fight, the New York Times reported Friday.

The names of players who tested positive for steroids in a 2003 pilot test program were to have remained secret, players having been told they were being tested on an anonymous basis to see if a need for greater testing existed.

US home run king Barry Bonds and fellow slugging stars Alex Rodriguez, Sammy Sosa, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz were among about 100 players were linked to those positive tests last year in reports by the Times and Sports Illustrated.

The US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last September in favor of the major league players union, saying authorities must destroy the list.

A 90-day period to appeal to the US Supreme Court ended Monday with no such move.

Authorities went after test

results connected to the BALCO steroid scandal in 2004, trying to determine the truthfulness of responses to grand jury questioning about whether or not players had ever taken performance-enhancing drugs.

When the union said they would challenge an order to provide the 2003 test results, federal authorities seized results for 10 players linked to BALCO as well as all other players who tested positive.

The union immediately challenged the legality of the move, setting off six years of legal wrangling that finally ended this week.

Courts allowed authorities to retain the positive test for Bonds to use at his trial in San Francisco, set to begin in March, on charges Bonds lied under oath when denying he had used performance-enhancing drugs, the Times reported.

The 2003 tests produced positive results from more than five percent of players, leading to the ongoing Major League Baseball doping test program for performance-enhancing drugs that began in 2004 with punishments for violations.

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McNabb benched, might be sent packing by Redskins

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Donovan McNabb has been benched in favour of Rex Grossman as starting quarterback for the Washington Redskins, who announced the switch Friday and said McNabb might not be with the NFL team next season.

Washington will travel to Dallas to face the arch-rival Cowboys on Sunday in a game that will have no impact on the playoff race. John Beck will serve as the backup to Grossman rather than having McNabb ready as the first substitute.

Redskins coach Mike Shanahan said Friday that he told McNabb of the switch on

Thursday and added that he wants to evaluate other quarterbacks in the final games of the season since the Redskins have been eliminated from playoff hope.

One month after signing a five-year deal worth 78.5 million dollars, McNabb might be released by the Redskins for only the guaranteed signing bonus amount of 3.5 million dollars.

"He has not been more disrespected his whole career than he has this season," McNabb's agent, Fletcher Smith, told ESPN. "It's absolutely ridiculous."

The Redskins, 5-8, have lost five of their past six

games while starter McNabb, 34, has thrown a career-high 15 interceptions this year.

Grossman, who has not started a game since 2008, has thrown only seven passes this season. Those came

when McNabb was benched in the closing minutes of a game the Redskins trailed at Detroit, Grossman committing a turnover that produced a game-winning touchdown for the Lions.

McNabb, who has thrown for 3,377 yards and 14 touchdowns this season, was hailed as a leader who might be able to revive the Redskins' fortunes.



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Blatter sorry for gay comments

ABU DHABI (AFP) - FIFA president Sepp Blatter on Friday apologised for saying that gay fans should "refrain from sexual activity" if they go to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Homosexuality is illegal in Qatar and Blatter's original comments provoked anger among gay rights groups who said he should apologise or resign.

"I regret my comment, I didn't want to hurt anyone. We are against discrimination. I apologise for that comment," Blatter told a press conference here ahead of Saturday's Club World Cup.

Gay rights activists have reacted furiously after Blatter joked that gay football fans should "refrain" from sex

during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where homosexuality is illegal.

Asked about concerns over the treatment of gay fans at the tournament, Blatter responded: "I would say that they should refrain from any sexual activities."

Blatter's remarks are just the latest example of the 74-year-old football chief putting his foot in his mouth.

He told women footballers in 2004 that the best way to make their sport more popular would be to wear "tighter shorts."

Earlier this year, he suggested that John Terry's alleged affair, which led to him being stripped of the England captaincy, would have been applauded in Latin countries.

Unbeaten fighter Mayweather arrested

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Unbeaten fighter Floyd Mayweather Jr was arrested on Friday on a misdemeanor warrant accusing him of poking a security guard in the face outside the boxer's home, police said.

An arrest warrant was reinstated for Mayweather on Thursday regarding the run-in over parking tickets and police said the welterweight

champion was arrested at a casino late Thursday and taken to the Clark County jail.

Mayweather, 33, was being held without bail and is due to appear in court on Monday on charges he poked a neighborhood security guard in the face on November 15 while they were arguing.

Mayweather was free on unrelated felony charges after posting bail following a Sep-

tember arrest after a dispute involving the mother of his sons.

If convicted of the misdemeanor batter charge, Mayweather faces a possible six-month jail sentence and a 1,000-dollar fine.

The felony robbery, coercion and grand larceny charges plus misdemeanor domestic battery and harassment charges could bring Mayweather a total of 34 years behind bars.

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